

Message Text

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ACTION EB-11

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 SS-20 NSC-10 CIAE-00 INR-10

NSAE-00 RSC-01 COME-00 INT-08 TRSE-00 SCEM-02 OPIC-12

DRC-01 /086 W

----- 072526

R 080335Z DEC 73

FM AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7018

C O N F I D E N T I A L KATHMANDU 5088

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: ENRG

SUBJECT: AMRICAN COMPANIES WELCOME IN NEPAL

1. IN MY MEETING DECEMBER 4 WITH PRIME MINISTER RIJAL ON THE WESTERN HILLS ROAD LOAN (KATHMANDU 5025), HE MENTIONED TO ME HIS DESIRE TO ENCOURAGE FURTHER EFFORTS AT OIL EXPLORATION IN NEPAL. HE SAID HE FELT CERTAIN THAT SOME OIL RESOURCES COULD BE UNCOVERED WITH THOROUGH EXPLORATION. HE WAS NOT CERTAIN HOW NEPAL SHOULD GO ABOUT THIS. I TOLD HIM I WOULD BE VERY HAPPY TO PASS THE WORD OF HIS INTEREST IN THIS PROSECT TO WASHINGTON SO THAT AMERICAN OIL EXPLORATION COMPANIES COULD BE INFORMED, ALTHOUGH I DID NOT KNOW WHAT DEGREE OF INTEREST THESE COMPANIES MIGHT HAVE.

2. IN A GENERAL COMMENT DURING THIS DISCUSSION, PRIME MINISTER SAID THAT HE WOULD BE PLEASED TO HAVE ADDITIONAL AMERICAN COMMERCIAL AND INDUSTRIAL ACTIVITY IN NEPAL. HE SAID HE DID NOT LIKE THE PROSPECT OF HAVING TO TURN ALMOST SOLELY TO INDIAN FIRMS FOR COMMERCIAL AND INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT IN NEPAL.

3. COMMENT: EMBASSY IS AWARE THAT TWO US OIL COMPANIES, CLAYCO PETROLEUM AND GENERAL EXPLORATION, HAVE BEEN IN TOUCH WIT GON OVER COURSE OF LAST YEAR. WE DO NOT KNOW, HOWEVER, WHETHER PRIME MINISTER AWARE OF THEIR APPROACHES. IN ANY EVENT, PRIME MINISTER'S COMMENT TO ME IS CLEARLY A SIGNAL THAT
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HE WOULD WELCOME INTEREST ON PART OF AMERICAN OIL COMPANIES

IN EXPLORATION IN NEPAL, AND MORE BROADLY THAT THERE IS FAVORABLE
GOVERNMENT CLIMATE HERE FOR AMERICAN INVESTMENT.
CARGO

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NNN

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